CLAIMS

1. A business method for Quantifying Royalty Owner Rights, the method including a computerized system performing the substantially asynchronous transactional steps of:

One) maintaining a registry of a plurality of users;

Two) maintaining a database of materials provided by the system to users of the plurality of users;

Three) using a substantially packet-based protocol over a distributed data-communications topology, communicating with a user of the plurality of users,

    a) from the user, accepting a report of the users prior use of materials provided by the system, and

    b) from data in the report, convoluting an updated metric of use into respective materials records in the database; and

Four) from the database computing a quantification of royalty owner rights for at least one of the respective materials.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein maintaining a database of materials provided includes providing the materials to the respective users, and the providing is by downloading via a distributed data-communications topology.

3. The method according to claim 2 wherein the provided materials include a user-computer executable program for facilitating the user maintaining a report for subsequent reporting to the computer system.

4. The method according to claim 2 wherein the provided materials include data for reproduction as audio contents.

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5. The method according to claim 2 wherein the provided materials include data for reproduction as visual contents.

6. The method according to claim 2 wherein the provided materials include

5   data for execution as computer software.

7. The method according to claim 1 wherein the communicating with the user includes accepting a request for downloading a plurality of substantially new materials.

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8. The method according to claim 1 wherein accepting a report of the users prior use includes an accounting of use since a most recent prior accepting from the user of a report of the users prior use.

15   9. The method according to claim 1 wherein accepting a report of the users prior use includes an accounting of cumulative use, substantially since becoming a user.

10. The method according to claim 1 wherein accepting a report of the users

20   prior use includes an accounting of the users recent use during a predetermined proximate prior time interval.

11. The method according to claim 1 wherein maintaining a registry includes a respective profile for each user of a preponderance of the users in the

25   registry.

12. The method according to claim 11 wherein convoluting includes correlating the updated metric with the respective user profile.

13. The method according to claim 1 wherein computing includes a predetermined contractual-based apportioning of royalty owner rights for reported use of respective materials by the user.

5   14. The method according to claim 1 wherein computing includes a predetermined contractual-based apportioning of royalty owner rights for reported use of respective materials by the plurality of user.

15. The method according to claim 14 wherein apportioning is extrapolated to
10   represent use by the entire plurality of users.

16. An article of manufacture including a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for Quantifying Royalty Owner Rights, the computer readable program code in said article of
15   manufacture including:

One) computer readable program code for causing a user computer to accept a download of materials from a remote computerized system;

Two) computer readable program code for causing the user computer to maintain a ledger of use of the downloaded materials; and

20   Three) computer readable program code for causing the user computer to upload, to the remote computer system, a report including sums maintained in the ledger.

17. The article of manufacture according to claim 16 wherein the downloaded
25   materials include computer software.

18. The article of manufacture according to claim 16 wherein the downloaded materials include data that can be converted into audio contents.

30   19. The article of manufacture according to claim 16 wherein the downloaded materials include data that can be converted into visual contents.

20. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for Quantifying Royalty Owner Rights, said method including a

5   computerized system performing the substantially asynchronous transactional steps of:

One) maintaining a registry of a plurality of users;

Two) maintaining a database of materials provided by the system to users of the plurality of users;

10   Three)using a substantial packet-based protocol over a distributed data-communications topology, communicating with a user of the plurality of users,

        a) from the user, accepting a report of the users prior use of materials provided by the system, and

15   b) from data in the report, convoluting an updated metric of use into respective materials records in the database; and

Four) from the database computing a quantification of royalty owner rights for at least one of the respective materials.